

Summer Bible Study 2016 – Luther’s Small Catechism

LESSON 3 – July 10, 2016

PART 2 – The Apostle’s CREED (With mention of Nicene & Athanasian)

Luther carefully divided the Catechism into the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism for ease of teaching and understanding. Those six Chief Parts are: (Put these to memory)

1. The Ten Commandments
- 2. The Apostles' Creed**
3. The Lord's Prayer
4. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
5. The Sacrament of Holy Communion
6. The Keys and Confession

On Non Communion Sundays we join together as a congregation and confess our faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN

A Creed = A Statement of Faith, often beginning with the words “I Believe”

There is no specific date for the when the Apostles Creed was written, rather it developed over time as Christians began to express their faith in a simple form.

The Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. Pastors of the Early N.T. Christian Church held a Council Meeting Called the Council of Nicaea, in a town called Nice, France. (Nes) It was there that the Nicene Creed was written in defense of the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Athanasian Creed was an even more in depth defense of the Trinity and the Dual Nature of Christ.

The Athanasian Creed was probably NOT written by Athanasius – The Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt from 295 A.D - 373 A.D., But the Creed was named after him since he was a faithful defender of the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Apostles’ Creed is divided into three (3) Articles.

The First Article is: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

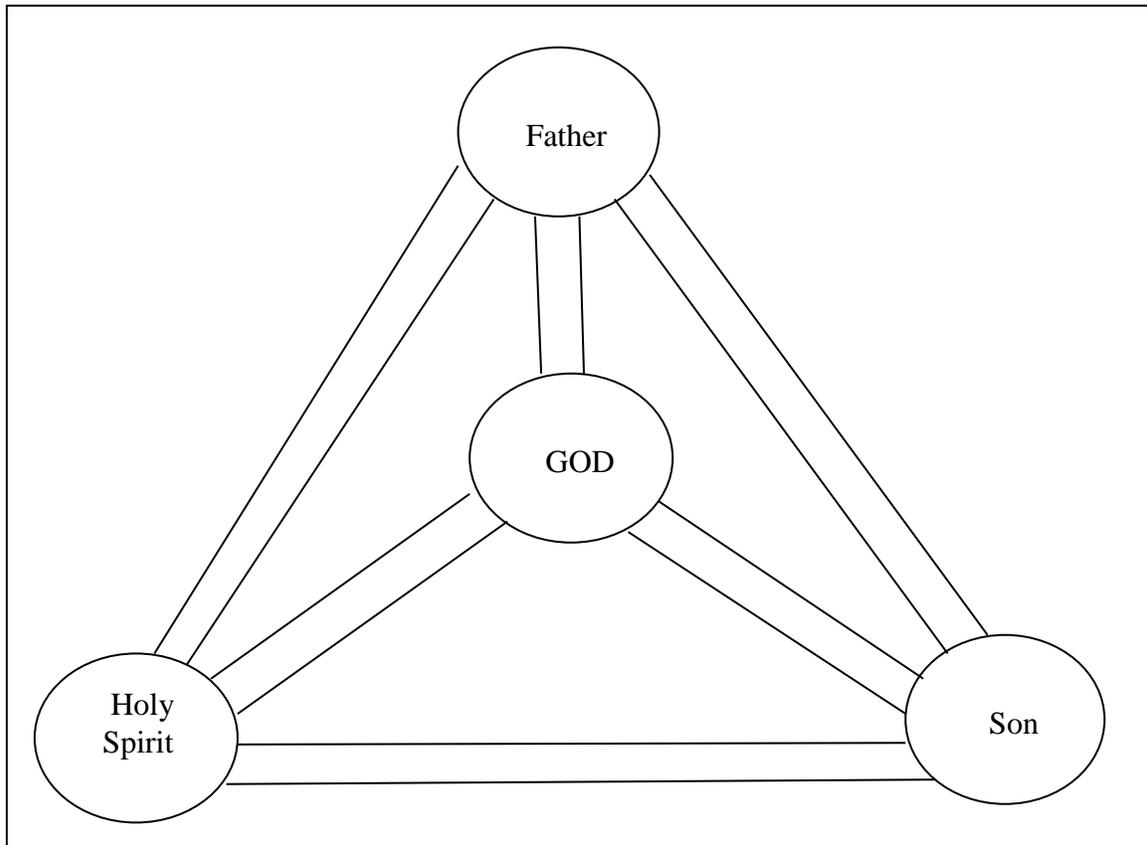
Even though all three persons of the Trinity were active in Creation, The First Article focuses on God The Father as Creator.

The First Article of the Creed leads us to ask the question: Who Is God?
God defines Himself in the Holy Scripture.

Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God , the Lord is One.”

Matthew 28:19 – “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The terms that Theologians use to define God is Trinity / Triune.



Faith = Trust

Hebrews 11:1 – “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Creation: 6 days x 24 hours + 7th day God rested.

Genesis 1:5b – “And there was evening, and there was morning – the 1st day.” 2nd day = Gen. 1:8; 3rd day = Gen. 1:13; 4th day = Gen.1:19; 5th day = Gen. 1:23; 6th day = Gen. 1:31;

Evolution is a lie of Satan to lead people away from God our Creator.

God’s Providence: (Not luck)

II Corinthians 9:8 – “God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need you will abound in every good work.”

Psalm 91:11 – “God will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.”

- Preservation
- Protection

My Thanks: = Study God’s Word + Obey God’s Word + Pray + Support God’s Work + Proclaim Christ to others.

Psalm 118:1 – “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

The Ruin of God's Creation:

Genesis 3:1 – “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, you must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

Revelation 12: 9 – “The great dragon was hurled down – the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”

Colossians 1:16 – “For by him (Christ Jesus) were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and *invisible*, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

Satan was created a good angel, but rebelled and led mankind into sin. = the author of sin

The Second Article is: I believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son our Lord, [Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.] {He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. }

Even though all three persons of the Trinity are involved in our Redemption, the Second Article focuses on God the Son as our Redeemer. To Redeem = To Buy Back.

The Dual Nature of Christ: TRUE God & TRUE Man; Equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 1:3 – The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word.”

I Timothy 2:5 – “There is One God and One mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

Christ's Office: (The Anointed One / Messiah)

- Prophet (Preaches / Prophecies)

Deuteronomy 18:15 – “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers.”

Luke 8:1 – Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.”

- High Priest (O.T. Priests sacrificed a lamb. Jesus Sacrificed Himself for us on the Cross.)

Hebrews 3:1 – Fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and High Priest Whom we confess.”

- King (Jesus rules our hearts and the universe with His Almighty / Powerful Word.)

John 18:37 – “Jesus answered, You are right in saying I am a King.”

John 1:1-5 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 – Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. 4 – In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 –The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”

Christ's Work:

Matthew 20:28 – “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Romans 3:23-24 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

I John 2:1-2 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks to the Father in our defense, Jesus Christ, The Righteous One. 2 – He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Christ's state of Humiliation:

Philippians 2:6-8 – (Jesus Christ) “Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on the cross.”

Christ's state of Exaltation:

Philippians 2:9-11 – “God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

The Third Article is: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the Life Everlasting. Amen.

Even though all Three Persons of the Trinity are involved in our Sanctification, The Third Article focuses on the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier.

The Holy Spirit Called us to faith by the Gospel: -εὐαγγέλιον - The Good News that our sins are forgiven by Jesus blood and righteousness.

The Means of Grace = The Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

Romans 10:17 – “Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”

II Corinthians 6:11 – “You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Sanctified in the Wide Sense: When we are brought to faith we are covered with Christ's Holiness. (Sanctified)
Sanctification = Made Holy

II Corinthians 6:11 – “You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Sanctification in the Narrow Sense: After we are brought to faith we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to do Good Works, that is to carry out fruits of faith / Sanctified living.

Galatians 5:22 – 26 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 – gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law. 24 – Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 – Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 – Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Enemies of The Faith: Devil, World, Sinful Flesh

Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

I John 2:15 – “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Galatians 5:17 – “The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit.”

The Holy Christian Church (Communion of Saints): How many religions in the World? = DO and DONE

II Timothy 2:19 – The Lord knows those who are His.”

Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47 – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... All the believers were together and had everything in common. ... Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”

- The Invisible Church – God knows all believers of all time in all the world.
- The Visible Church – Where we find the *Marks of the Church*. = The Gospel in Word and Sacrament faithful and truthfully taught and administered.

The Lutheran Confessions:

1. The Small Catechism
2. The Large Catechism
3. The Augsburg Confession
4. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
5. The Smalcald Articles
6. The Formula of Concord

Fellowship:

Acts 2:44– “All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Romans 16:17-18 – I urge you brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people.”

Titus 3:9-11 – But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 – Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.”

Psalm 66:16-18 – Come and listen all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me. 17 – I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart the Lord would not have listened.”

John 9:31 – We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does His will.”

Old Testament Fellowship = **Deuteronomy 7:1-6** - When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you— ² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. ³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. ⁵ This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. ⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

- Church Fellowship
- Prayer Fellowship

Do not fellowship with those who are *persistence* errorists.

Orthodox (True) Christianity:

Heterodox (Falsehood) Christianity: They are still Christian, but teach some falsehood and either refuse to recognize the falsehood or just do not understand, but have child like faith.

Justification: (Declared Not Guilty / Acquitted) See Above – “Christ’s Work Section on pg. 3)

- Objective Justification – Christ is the Object of our Salvation
- Subjective Justification – We are the Subjects brought to faith in Christ by the Means of Grace.

Grace = God’s Pure Undeserved Love

The Resurrection from the Dead:

Mark 16:16 – “He that believes and is Baptized shall be saved, he that does not believe shall be condemned.”

Heaven is for the Believers – And it is Forever

Revelation 22:5 – “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign forever and ever.” (KJV)

Hell is for the Unbelievers – And it is Forever

Revelation 20:10 – “and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (RSV)

Each Student can list below any other Bible Passages that give insight into heaven and hell and the Last Day / Judgment Day.